

Representative Town Meeting of Darien, Conn.
RULES COMMITTEE
Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 4, 2006

8:15 p.m., Town Hall, Room 213

Committee Attendance: K. Armour, J. Davis, D. Maroney, M. Pontius, B. Puzyk, B. Rayhill, V. Riccardo, M. Thorne, J. Warren, V. Wenger

Absent: S. Morton, H. Pegler, G. Swenson

Ms. Armour called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to review the status of pending items and to create the agenda for the RTM's January 23, 2006 meeting.

To begin, the Committee unanimously agreed to add the following matters to its published agenda: the DHS cost overrun; Tax relief /deferral for the elderly; and Changes to Chapter 33 of the Code of Ordinances.

The Committee then accepted the Minutes of its 11/21/05 meeting without objection.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT: Ms. Armour reported that the Town Administrator, Mr. Crary, has forwarded a proposal to revise Town Charter provisions re: harbor management. The Committee unanimously agreed to assign the harbor management matter to the **Parks & Recreation (primary) and TGS&A (secondary) Committees.**

PURCHASING PRACTICES (TGS&A, F&B): Mr. Warren indicated that the TGS&A Committee will finish its consideration of this matter during its February and March meetings, so that it can be presented to the RTM at its May 8, 2006 Budget Meeting.

PENSION PLAN (F&B, TGS&A): Ms. Armour noted that this matter continues to be "murky," and Mr. Warren added that he hopes it can be presented to the RTM at its May 8, 2006 Budget Meeting.

RECREATIONAL SHELLFISHING (H&SS, Parks & Rec, and TGS&A): This matter continues to await action by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Davis wondered if the RTM could possibly take action prior to clamming season. Mr. Warren conceded that this matter is not likely to be presented to the RTM until its September 25, 2006 meeting.

CHAPTER 33 ORDINANCE CHANGE (TGS&A, Parks & Rec): Mr. Warren reported that the TGS&A Committee will consider and act upon this matter at its 1/9/06 meeting.

DHS COST OVERRUN: The Committee unanimously agreed to assign this matter to the **F&B (primary) and Education (secondary) Committees.**

TAX RELIEF/DEFERRAL FOR THE ELDERLY: Ms. Armour reported that the Board of Finance has approved a plan, and that it needs to be forwarded to the Committee. To assure that the matter will be presented to the RTM, the Committee unanimously agreed to assign it to the **Public Health & Safety (primary) and F&B (secondary Committees).**

During its discussion of the above items, the Committee considered how matters could be efficiently and effectively shepherded through the review, consideration and action phases to which RTM matters are subject from proposal to final vote. Mr. Davis suggested that timetables be established, and that such timetables anticipate the need for public hearings. Mr. Davis offered to consider calendaring options for RTM matters,

AGENDA FOR 1/23/06 RTM MEETING: The Committee unanimously agreed to list the following matters on the agenda for the RTM's 1/23/06 meeting:

1. Tax Relief/Deferral for the Elderly;
2. Chapter 33 Ordinance Change; and
3. DHS Cost Overrun.

The Committee then unanimously agreed to assign the following new RTM members to Standing Committees as follows:

1. District 1 – Katherine Ko, Education and John Price, Public Works
2. District 2 – Michael Rudnick, F&B and Joe Warren, Jr., TGS&A
3. District 4 – Anita Rycenga, PZ&H
4. District 5 – John Normile, PZ&H and Mark Adiletta, TGS&A

Ad Hoc CHARGE re: BEST PRACTICES IN TOWN HALL FINANCE FUNCTIONS:

Ms. Armour reported that the charge has been written and the Board of Finance has approved it. She will send it to the Rules Committee for their information. The previously selected Rules subcommittee (Mr. Morton, Ms. Pontius and Mr. Wenger) will select people to serve.

Having no further business to consider, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Riccardi, Clerk